

DATE: June 11, 1979
REPLY TO: POL - Tony Freeman *af*
ATTN OF:
SUBJECT: Permanent Assembly List of Disappeareds
TO: ADCM - John Amott

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memorandum
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The Permanent Assembly figure of 359 disappearances represents the total number of disappearances taking place between January 1, 1978 through April 20, 1979 that were denounced to the Assembly by walk-ins at their offices.

We have a total of 476 reported disappearances during the year of 1978 taken from all sources including the newspapers. This, granted, gives you an overall average of "only" 40 per month roughly. I have not gone back to pull out the records to refresh my memory precisely as to how Bill got to the 50 plus figure, but roughly speaking, as I recall, the genesis was as follows: it was the Ambassador who first came up with the figure, I think, for the latter half of 1978 rather than a full year figure. He reported that to Washington and then Bill had to scurry around to justify the Ambassador's figure and, lo and behold, he discovered that the figure was not that far off. It should be noted that in addition to the 476 names that we have, we did hear reports of a number of large-scale operations, including in one case over 50 or more Catholic youth types who were momentarily "disappeared." We never got their names (and so they remain unconfirmed), but this suggests that there are more disappeareds out there than the number of names that we have.

Blanca is now checking the Permanent Assembly list against our files to see if they have any names that we do not.

NOTE: All figures above refer to disappearances. They tell us nothing about "disappeareds" who may have "reappeared."

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U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

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POL:AGFreeman:sz



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